

Panel Votes \$2.7 Billion Bill On Foreign Aid

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The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 12 to 0 yesterday for a \$2.7 billion foreign aid authorization bill loaded with money for Israel but carrying sharp restrictions on the CIA and curbs on outlays for military aid.

The bill replaces a \$2.5 billion measure that the White House helped kill Oct. 2 on a 11-to-39 Senate vote. On grounds it was too restrictive and too meager, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) said the administration supports the new bill despite similar curbs.

"The White House supports it absolutely," said Humphrey, who steered the bill through the committee and will probably be its floor manager. "We have a commitment from State, the Agency for International Development and, from what I understand, the President himself," he said.

The White House shifted because the present measure is somewhat less restrictive (it carries no ban on aid to Turkey, for example), is \$145.5 million fatter, and is far preferable in overall outlay totals to the \$2.55 billion financing resolution being used in the absence of an aid authorization.

If the new bill is passed, it would authorize not only the new \$2.7 billion but also about \$1.2 billion in carryovers from previous years plus re-use of loan reimbursements from previous years.

The White House request for new spending authority—excluding carryovers and loan reimbursements—was \$2.25 billion for fiscal 1975. The House Foreign Affairs Committee has recommended \$2.64 billion. The Senate committee bill totals \$2.67 billion.

The sum includes \$250 million in economic aid for Egypt and \$100 million in a special Middle East fund which may be used for Syria. Israel's original \$229 million in economic aid was raised to \$339.5 million because Egypt has just been promised an added \$89.5 million (funneled in a separate bill for agricultural aid).

The bill also sets a \$1.2 billion ceiling on military grants under the new bill.

The committee approved an amendment by Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) barring planned outlays of \$16 million for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization until UNESCO repeals a series of resolutions condemning Israel. Case said UNESCO shouldn't pass political resolutions straying from its humanitarian purposes. Humphrey said the vote was unanimous.

Other amendments bar any military aid to the regime in Chile, forbid training of foreign law-enforcement and prison officials, restrict U.S. personnel in South Vietnam to 4,000 hire and contract persons this year and 3,000 after the end of fiscal 1975 next June 30, and restrict similar personnel in Cambodia to 175.

The CIA amendment would forbid covert "black" operations by the CIA abroad unless the President finds them important to national security and notifies in advance the appropriate committees of Congress (Armed Services and Appropriations). Humphrey said intelligence (fact-gathering) operations wouldn't be affected but attempts to interfere with foreign governments or foment revolutions would be barred unless the two conditions were met.

The committee cut military aid to Korea from the \$252.8 million requested to \$133.9 million, with a requirement that it be phased out by the end of 1977. It imposed a ceiling on all forms of aid to South Vietnam, including military aid funded in another bill, to \$1.267 billion.

A Cambodia ceiling of \$377 million was imposed (request: \$378 million) and a Laos ceiling of \$70 million (request: \$146 million).

Included in the bill's \$2.7 billion total, by broad category, is \$298 million in general development assistance, \$60 million for post war Indochina reconstruction, \$675 million in "security supporting assistance" (the Israel and Egypt economic money comes out of this), \$350 million in military aid (the bill sets a ceiling on military credits and excluding part of the Israeli money).

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